

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83 (a). It is respectfully submitted that the tangential line exists on each of the curved surface and the planer surface so that the tangential line as recited in claims 6 and 7 does not need to exist only on the curved surface. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the curved surface doe not need to be shown in the drawings of the present application. If this drawing objection continues to be an issue, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' representative at the telephone number below so that this issue can be fully resolved to the satisfaction of the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. It is asserted that " $P/W \leq 2.45$ " is not supported by the original disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is supported by Item of invention 3 in Table 1 on page 9 of the specification. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Okada (WO 01/08146). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Okada of the cited reference does not disclose "the tapered surfaces for supporting the shaft" as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Thus, claim 1 should not be rejected on Okada of the cited reference.

The tapered surfaces for supporting the shaft is readable from "an inner peripheral surface for supporting thereon the reciprocating shaft, wherein the inner peripheral surface includes -- second and third tapered surfaces" in claim 1, fig. 1 of the present application, and the paragraph from line 16, page 9 to line 2, page 10 of the specification of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1 as discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 4 and 5 are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

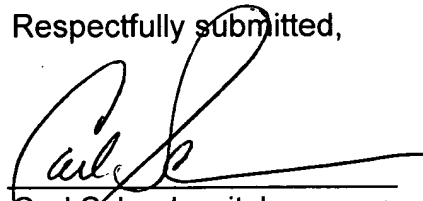
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 16, 2007

By:


Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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